

NCCOR Member Meeting

September 20, 2023

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AGENDA

National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) Member Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2023
1:00–3:30 p.m. ET

Location: <https://zoom.us/j/93486145466>

Meeting ID: 934 8614 5466

Purpose: Explore how lessons learned from public health interventions can be applied to childhood obesity research

- 1:00–1:15** **Welcome and Introductions:** Karen Hilyard, PhD, *NCCOR Coordinating Center*
- 1:15–1:25** **What are some similarities between childhood obesity, tobacco, and teen pregnancy?**
— Karen Hilyard, PhD, *NCCOR Coordinating Center*
- What are the similarities among causes and underlying factors?
 - Where are there similarities in solutions?
- 1:25–02:25** **Panel:** Applying successful tobacco and teen pregnancy interventions to childhood obesity
Moderator: Karen Hilyard, *NCCOR Coordinating Center*
- L. Duane House, PhD, *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
 - Laura Davis and Karen Torres, *Advocates for Youth*
 - Sally Herndon, MPH, *Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch, Division of Public Health, NC Department of Health and Human Services*
 - Jessica Rath, PhD, MPH, CHES and Elizabeth C. Hair, PhD, MS, *Truth Initiative*
- 2:25–2:35** **Q&A with Panelists**
- 2:35–2:50** **Discussant:** Tamara Dubowitz, ScD, SM, MSc, *Pardee RAND Graduate School*
- 2:50–3:25** **Discussion:** How can lessons learned from tobacco or teen pregnancy interventions be applied to childhood obesity research?
- 3:25–3:30** **Wrap-Up:** Karen Hilyard, *NCCOR Coordinating Center*

NCCOR Member Meeting Panel Discussion Speaker Bios

Panel: Applying successful tobacco and teen pregnancy interventions to childhood obesity



L. Duane House, PhD, is a health scientist on the evaluation team for the Prevention Research Centers program at CDC. He has worked in evaluation and implementation science for over 20 years. He has worked in public health at CDC for over 15 years in the areas of adolescent reproductive health, positive youth development, program evaluation, evaluation capacity building, implementation science, and emergency preparedness and response. Prior to joining CDC, Dr. House was involved with evaluating and implementing a youth development intervention for diverse youth in high school and evaluations of other interventions for adolescents. He received his PhD in Psychology from Georgia State University where he taught undergraduate courses. He has published his work in peer-reviewed journals, led and facilitated workshops and trainings, and presented at numerous conferences.



Laura Davis, MA, directs Advocates for Youth's Adolescent Sexual Health Services Division. Advocates for Youth is a Washington DC-based nonprofit organization that champions young people's rights to honest sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information; accessible, confidential, and affordable SRH services, and the resources and opportunities necessary to create SRH equity for all youth. With more than thirty years of program planning, project coordination, teaching, training, and organizational development in the field of reproductive and sexual health, Ms. Davis has managed an adolescent family planning clinic, directed four multi-year cooperative agreements with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Office of Adolescent Health, and conducted trainings for youth, sexuality educators, health providers, and youth service workers in over 35 states.



Karen Torres is a University of Arizona graduate with dual degrees in Physiology and Political Science: Law and Public Policy. She has worked as a peer educator in sexual and reproductive health since 2018, advocating for rights and access for young people nationally. In her capacity in the Reproductive Health Access Project (RHAP) and Advocates for Youth, she is engaged in program design, implementation, and evaluation with an emphasis on increasing quality and access to sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services in clinical settings and in the greater community.



Sally Herndon, MPH, is Head of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch, Division of Public Health, at the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. She has been a leader in NC public health's efforts in tobacco prevention and control since 1991 when she served as the Program Manager for Project ASSIST (1991-1999), a National Cancer Institute (NCI) funded population-based intervention trial in partnership with the American Cancer Society. Prior to that, she served on the Board of NCI's COMMIT to a Healthier Raleigh, a community-based intervention trial. She helped build support for and successfully implement the 2010 law that makes all NC restaurants and bars smoke-free as well as to restore local government authority to make government buildings, grounds, and public indoor spaces smoke-free/tobacco free.



Jessica Rath, PhD, MPH, CHES, is Vice President at Truth Initiative. As a social and behavioral scientist, she is responsible for leading the formative research and impact evaluation of the truth campaign. In addition, she directs the tobacco free screens portfolio with the goal of no tobacco images on youth appealing screens. She has co-authored numerous peer-reviewed publications focused on the campaign's effects, measures and metrics for formative evaluation, tobacco free screens, predictors of health behavior, and patterns of tobacco use over time in young people. Dr. Rath is a certified health education specialist and has a doctorate from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a master's degree from the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health.



Elizabeth Hair, PhD, MS, oversees the health communication research at Truth Initiative, including the formative research of the truth campaign and the longitudinal evaluation of the campaign's effectiveness in communicating anti-smoking messages to young adults. In addition, she conducts research on youth use of traditional and emerging tobacco products. Dr. Hair has over two decades of experience in conducting research on child and family well-being, including issues related to health and mental health, health risk behaviors, vulnerable youth, and the transition to adulthood.



Tamara Dubowitz, ScD, SM, MSc, is a senior policy researcher at the RAND Corporation and faculty at the Pardee RAND Graduate School. Trained in social epidemiology with concentrations in maternal and child health and public health nutrition, her research focuses on the role of place, or geography, and health of marginalized populations. Her interests also lie in understanding the health and nutrition effects of policy (e.g., housing policy, food policy, urban planning), including topical areas such as food security. Dr. Dubowitz's work has utilized both quantitative and qualitative methods to examine individuals within their social and structural contexts.

Highlights of NCCOR Accomplishments & Activities

The National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) is advancing the field through complementary and joint initiatives by its partners: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The following are **select accomplishments** and activities from May through September 2023.

Published a new paper in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*.

NCCOR published a new research commentary underscoring the importance of measuring dietary intake during the critical early stages of life. The paper, "[Count Every Bite to Make 'Every Bite Count': Measurement Gaps and Future Directions for Assessing Diet from Birth to 24 Months](#)," was part of a special series in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (JAND)* focused on the recently updated Healthy Eating Index (HEI) and dietary assessment for young children. The new commentary outlined the work of NCCOR's Dietary Assessment workgroup, which identified measurement gaps specific to the first two years of life, including measurement error, proxy reporting, biased reporting, estimations of usual intake, understanding human milk composition, lack of biomarkers, device limitations, data processing developments, and the complexity of multidimensional and dynamic dietary patterns. The paper concludes with strategies to address these gaps, such as prioritizing diverse populations in research relevant to the dietary guidelines for infants and toddlers; developing a national research agenda to prioritize and rank research questions and topics concerning this age group; creating a comprehensive library of dietary assessment resources specifically designed for infants and toddlers; forging diverse and interdisciplinary research collaborations to address the complexities associated with dietary assessment in this population; and acknowledging that multiple stakeholders across academia, government, and industry have a role in advancing dietary assessment for the birth to 24-month age group. The commentary's authors include Meghan Zimmer, MPH, *NIH*; Julie Obbagy, PhD, RD, *USDA*; Kelley S. Scanlon, PhD, RD, *USDA*; Kimberlea Gibbs, MPH, RD, *NIH*; Jennifer L. Lerman, MPH, RD, *NIH*; Heather C. Hamner, PhD, MS, MPH, *CDC*; TusaRebecca Pannucci, PhD, MPH, RD, *USDA*; Amanda Sharfman, MS, MPH, *FHI 360*; Jill Reedy, PhD, MPH, RD, *NIH*; Kirsten A. Herrick, PhD, MSc., *NIH*.

Formed a new workgroup, Policy Lessons Learned for Healthy Childhood Development.

This new workgroup will begin planning a workshop series to 1) build multi-sector collaboration for addressing risk factors for childhood obesity and 2) leverage insights from successful local, national, and global public health interventions to advance progress in childhood obesity prevention. The first workgroup meeting occurred in July, and a sub-committee has been formed to begin planning the first workshop, slated to occur virtually in spring 2024. If you are interested in joining this workgroup, please Jill Reedy (reedyj@mail.nih.gov).

Published a new factsheet for the updated Healthy Eating Index (HEI).

NCCOR created a [new factsheet](#) about changes to the HEI. NIH and USDA recently released the updated version, and for the first time, included two scoring systems: [HEI-2020](#) for children and adults aged 2 years and older and the [HEI-Toddlers-2020](#) for children aged 12 to 23 months. The NCCOR factsheet

offers a user-friendly summary of the most recent changes, explains the rationale behind the new toddler version, details the system's scoring metrics, and suggests resources for learning more about the HEI. The factsheet is available on the [NCCOR HEI project page](#).

Presented three poster sessions at major conferences.

Three NCCOR workgroups presented posters during conferences in June and July 2023.

- The Active Travel to School workgroup shared [Finding Measurement Needs for Youth Active Travel to School in the United States](#) at the International Conference on Diet and Activity Methods. The authors were Stephanie George, PhD, MPH, MA, *NIH*; David Berrigan, PhD, MPH, *NIH*; Andrew Bremer, MD, PhD, *NIH*; Van Do, MPH, *FHI 360*.
- The Measurement workgroup presented [The National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research \(NCCOR\) Catalogue of Surveillance Systems and Measures Registry: Celebrating 10 years of progress and looking toward the future](#) at the International Conference on Diet and Activity Methods. The authors were Marissa Shams-White, PhD, MSTOM, MS, MPH, *NIH*; David Berrigan, PhD, MPH, *NIH*; Amanda Sharfman, MS, MPH, *FHI 360*; Laura Kettel Khan, PhD, MIM, *CDC*; Ellen W. Stowe, PhD, MPH, *CDC*; Stephanie George, PhD, MPH, MA, *NIH*; Jill Reedy, PhD, MPH, RD, *NIH*.
- The Dietary Assessment workgroup presented “Count Every Bite to Make ‘Every Bite Count’: Measurement Gaps and Future Directions for Assessing Diet from Birth to 24 Months” at Nutrition 2023. The authors were Meghan Zimmer, MPH; Julie Obbagy, PhD, RD, *USDA*; Kelley S. Scanlon, PhD, RD, *USDA*; Kimberlea Gibbs, MPH, RD, *NIH*; Jennifer L. Lerman, MPH, RD, *NIH*; Heather C. Hamner, PhD, MS, MPH, *CDC*; TusaRebecca Pannucci, PhD, MPH, RD, *USDA*; Amanda Sharfman, MS, MPH, *FHI 360*; Jill Reedy, PhD, MPH, RD, *NIH*; Kirsten A. Herrick, PhD, MSc., *NIH*.

Hosted a successful Connect & Explore webinar highlighting changes to the Healthy Eating Index (HEI).

Over 800 people registered for NCCOR's latest Connect & Explore webinar on September 7, 2023, titled “Measuring Diet Quality Across the Lifespan: Introducing the New Healthy Eating Index-Toddlers-2020 and Healthy Eating Index-2020.” The 90-minute presentation reviewed highlights from the 2020 HEI update, explained why a toddler-focused version was needed, and described how to assess dietary quality for young children. The following NCCOR members presented: Jill Reedy, PhD, MPH, RD, *NIH*; Marissa Shams-White, PhD, MSTOM, MS, MPH, *NIH*; TusaRebecca Pannucci, PhD, MPH, RD, *USDA*; Jennifer Lerman, MPH, RD, *NIH*; and Kirsten Herrick, PhD, MSc, *NIH*. A [recording](#) of the webinar can be found on the NCCOR website.

NCCOR 2023: **UPCOMING EVENTS & PUBLICATIONS**

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
<p>SEPTEMBER 7 Connect & Explore webinar: Measuring Diet Quality Across the Lifespan: Introducing the New Healthy Eating Index-Toddlers-2020 and Healthy Eating Index-2020</p> <hr/> <p>SEPTEMBER 20 NCCOR Member Meeting (virtual)</p> <p>National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month</p>	<p>OCTOBER 18 NCCOR Member Call</p> <hr/> <p>Launch of the NCCOR member survey</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 8 NCCOR Member Call</p> <hr/> <p>NOVEMBER 12-15 NCCOR booth at the American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting & Expo in Atlanta</p>	<p>DECEMBER 13 NCCOR Member Call</p>	<p>JANUARY 17 NCCOR Member Meeting</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 28 NCCOR Member Meeting (virtual)</p> <hr/> <p>Launch of the Connect & Explore 10-year anniversary campaign</p>
			<p>YEAR-LONG PUBLICATIONS:</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Influence of Social Determinants of Health and Structural Racism on Childhood Obesity: An Editorial” in <i>Childhood Obesity</i> • Update to the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems with a sleep variable • Update to the Economic Indicators Library with expanded resources <p>ONGOING PUBLICATIONS:</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCCOR Monthly e-Newsletter • NCCOR Student e-Newsletter 		

Overview of Active NCCOR Workgroups and Projects

NCCOR members continually assess the needs of the field, develop joint projects to address gaps and make strategic advancements, and work together to generate new ideas to reduce childhood obesity. The projects below describe ongoing efforts to support NCCOR's mission of working across disciplines and organizations.

Adding a Sleep Variable to the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems

Leads: Jill Reedy, NIH, reedyj@mail.nih.gov; Marissa Shams-White, NIH, marissa.shams-white@nih.gov

This workgroup is updating the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems (CSS) to add "Sleep" as a key search term and variable, as is the case for "Diet" and "Physical Activity." The workgroup was developed to address the gap in access to datasets with sleep-related variables, which could help researchers identify quality sleep measures for surveillance and epidemiological research. Two consultants were hired and have completed the abstraction of sleep-related variables of both existing and new datasets in CSS. The workgroup is conducting a final review before publishing the updates.

Economic Impact of Built Environment Improvements for Physical Activity

Leads: Heather Devlin, CDC, jjj3@cdc.gov; Hatidza Zaganjor, CDC, xgg0@cdc.gov

This project aims to identify common economic indicators and methods that public health practitioners can use to make a business case for built environment and land use improvements to increase physical activity. The workgroup published a [manuscript](#) on the topic in the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health* in 2021. The workgroup also released a new collection of resources, titled [Creating Thriving, Activity-Friendly Communities](#), including a two-pager and discussion points for public health practitioners, community members, and decision makers to make the case for built environment improvements. In October 2022, the group launched an [Economic Indicators Library](#) and a presentation template for users to bring these resources to their communities. The workgroup is adding potential data sources for economic indicators to the economic indicator library this fall.

Identification and Categorization of Evidence Gaps in Physical Activity Research

Leads: David Brown, CDC, drb8@cdc.gov; Melissa Green Parker, NIH, melissa.greenparker@nih.gov; Bramaramba Kowtha, NIH, bramaramba.kowtha@nih.gov

This workgroup is collating evidence gaps and will perform an evidence-based approach referred to as concept mapping to organize ("cluster") the research gaps into co-emergent themes and their interrelationships. The goal is to create a single conceptual framework of the current evidence gaps in physical activity (PA) rather than rely on lists from disparate reports. Ultimately, this framework could serve as a tool to guide those working in research, policy, and practice in determining future opportunities in the field of PA with greater efficiency. The workgroup is working with Laura Balis at the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition to conduct the concept mapping approach.

Implementation Science

Leads: Janet Fulton, CDC, jkf2@cdc.gov; Susan Vorkoper, NIH, vorkopersc@mail.nih.gov

This workgroup has engaged Dr. Taren Swindle from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to develop an implementation science training tool tailored to the needs of childhood obesity, nutrition, and healthy weight programs. Currently conceived as a "roadmap," the proposed product will draw from case studies and published literature to illustrate how researchers and practitioners can apply implementation science during various project stages.

Policy Lessons Learned for Healthy Childhood Development

Leads: Jill Reedy, NIH, reedyj@mail.nih.gov

This new workgroup will begin planning a workshop series to 1) build multi-sector collaboration for addressing risk factors for childhood obesity and 2) leverage insights from successful local, national, and global public health interventions to advance progress in childhood obesity prevention. A sub-committee has been formed to begin planning the first workshop, slated to occur virtually in spring 2024.

State of the Science on Measures of Individual Diet, Food Environment, Individual Physical Activity, and Physical Activity Environment

Leads: David Berrigan, NIH, berrigan@mail.nih.gov; Jeff Whitfield, CDC, xdh5@cdc.gov

This workgroup will work with outside experts to summarize the measures landscape as represented in the Measures Registry and highlight how the Registry illuminates strengths and gaps in the development of valid measures of diet, physical activity, and their environmental influences. The workgroup will focus first on the individual physical activity domain. This review could tabulate features of validation studies in the registry, describe the measures landscape, and highlight some well-validated measures for each domain. It could also help clarify challenges in measures selection where many validation studies exist, such as for dietary recalls. Additionally, for measures based on technology, the review will help identify technologies in the Registry that no longer exist and suggest current technologies that researchers could use. As such, this review would highlight aspects of the Measures Registry that are most appropriate for today's use and take the Registry in a new direction, no longer requiring constant updating. The workgroup is working with Dr. Karin Pfeiffer, Dr. Kimberly Clevenger, and their graduate student on this effort. They have currently agreed on the table shells for a new paper and will be reviewing the initial tables and an outline this month.

OPERATIONAL WORKGROUP PROJECT

Communications

Lead: Melissa Van Orman, NCCOR, MVanOrman@fhi360.org

This operational workgroup facilitates cross-collaboration for promotional efforts among the NCCOR member agencies. The group shares information about the latest resources, launches, and other news being amplified on social media and other communication channels.

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